

REMARKS

The present application relates to inbred maize plant and seed PH0GC. Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 2 was previously amended in the Amendment of May 17, 2005. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended. Applicant acknowledges the addition of claims 11 through 30. No new matter has been added by way of amendment. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Detailed Action

A. Status of the Application

Applicant acknowledges the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. § 101 double patenting have been withdrawn. Applicant further acknowledges the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been withdrawn in view of the showing of common ownership at the time of the invention.

B. Claims

Applicant acknowledges the addition of claims 11 through 30. The new claims do not add new matter as there is support for the claims in the originally filed specification. Support for the specific items can be found within the specification for herbicide tolerance on pages 31-32; insect resistance and resistance to bacterial, fungal, nematode or viral disease on pages 28-31; yield enhancement on page 21; waxy starch and improved nutritional quality on page 21; male sterility on pages 1-3; restoration of male fertility on pages 1-3 and 0-5 generations on pages 3-4. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

A. Written description regarding Claims 1-10

Claims 1-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner states the rejection is repeated for the reasons of record set forth in the Office Action of February 17, 2005. The Examiner states " ... the cytoplasmic genome of a

plant is only inherited from the female parent ... it would not necessarily allow one of skill in the art to distinguish with certainty that PH0GC is one of the parent lines." The Examiner further states "said deposit only describes inbred line PH0GC, it does not describe molecular markers or the genus of F1 progeny plants encompassed by the instant claims." The Examiner also states "... Applicant only describes, by way of a deposit of inbred PH0GC, a partial structure of the claimed genus of F1 hybrid maize plants." (Office Action, p. 3-6).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant reiterates that the written description requirement has been satisfied by the actual reduction to practice of F1 hybrid seed/plant produced by inbred maize line PH0GC, by the deposit of a common identifying structural feature of the claimed F1 hybrid seed and plants and by the morphological description of Table 1 of the specification. (See specification, p. 18-20).

Applicant reiterates that one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the pericarp tissue of inbred PH0GC is genetically identical to the maternal parent, as acknowledged by the Examiner. The pericarp tissue that surrounds the seed is 2n maternal tissue only, the embryo is 2n tissue resulting from the fusion of one maternal and one paternal gamete, and the endosperm is 3n tissue resulting from the fusion of two maternal and one paternal gametes. The seed of maize has been described as a 'one-seeded fruit', where the ovary wall from the maternal parent is transformed into the tough outer pericarp that surrounds the kernel. Therefore, Applicant points out that intact cells from inbred PH0GC will be a component of the F1 hybrid seed produced with PH0GC as the maternal parent. Further, the genetic composition of the pericarp tissue of the F1 hybrid seed is an identifying structural feature present in the plants produced from the deposited seed of PH0GC and can be characterized by molecular markers.

In order to satisfy the written description requirement, the Applicant "must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention." *Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 U.S.P.Q.2d 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In essence, "the description must clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [the Applicant] invented what is claimed." *In re Gosteli*, 872 F.2d 1008, 1012, 10 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1989). An Applicant's claims are described where they set forth and define "structural features commonly possessed by members of the genus that distinguish them from others." *Regents of University of California*, 119 F.3d at 1568, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1406 (emphasis added). For inventions similar to the present

Applicant's, "reference in the specification to a deposit in a public depository, which makes its contents accessible to the public when it is not otherwise available in written form, constitutes an adequate description of the deposited material sufficient to comply with the written description requirement of § 112, ¶ 1." *Enzo Biochem, Inc. v. Gen-Probe Inc.*, 323 F.3d 956, 965, 63 U.S.P.Q.2d 1609, 1613 (Fed. Cir. 2002). The Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences has also confirmed the sufficiency of a deposit for seed and plants in the case of *Ex Parte C*, 1992 WL 515817 p. * 5, 27 U.S.P.Q.2d 1492, 1496 (B.P.A.I. 1992), where it stated that "[t]he claimed soybean is described in the specification to the extent that there is no question that appellant was in possession of the invention as of the time the instant application was filed. Because seed is to be deposited in a public depository, the specification is enabling and sets forth the best mode of carrying out the invention."

Further, in order to satisfy the written description requirement, Applicants "are not required to disclose every species encompassed by their claims even in an unpredictable art". *Regents of University of California v. Eli Lilly*, 119 F.3d 1559, 1569, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (citing as analogous argument *In re Angstadt*, 537 F.2d 498, 502-03, 190 U.S.P.Q.2d 214, 218 (Cust. & Pat. App. 1976)). Consistent with this principal, the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences, in a case involving the written description requirement as applied to seed and plants, stated "[i]f in making the latter comment the examiner is requiring appellants to have reduced to practice each possible plant within the scope of the claims, such a position is legally incorrect. The specification need only teach one skilled in the art how to make and use the claimed invention. How the specification does so, whether by way of the written word or actual examples, is of no moment." *Ex parte Gerardu C.M. Bentvelsen et al.*, 2001 WL 1197757, p. *2 (B.P.A.I. 2001). In addition, a claim to the genus of F1 hybrids made with a patented inbred was expressly acknowledged by the U.S. Supreme Court when it stated that "...a utility patent on an inbred plant line protects the line as well as all hybrids produced by crossing that inbred with another plant line." *J.E.M. Ag. Supply, Inc. v. Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, Inc.*, 534 U.S. 124, 143; 122 S.Ct. 593, 604; 60 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865, 1873 (2001) (emphasis added). Therefore, Applicant submits that based on the data provided in the specification and the above the function of the hybrid has been correlated to the set of chromosomes originating from the deposited PH0GC seed.

In addition to description by structure, the written description requirement may be satisfied by disclosing functional characteristics where there is a correlation between structure and function. The Federal Circuit has stated that the written description requirement may be met by "show[ing] that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics . . . i.e., complete or partial structure, other physical and/or chemical properties, *functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure*, or some combination of such characteristics." *Enzo Biochem, Inc.*, 323 F.3d at 964, 63 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1613 (quoting and adopting the USPTO's Written Description Guidelines, 66 Fed. Reg. 1106, No. 4 (2001)). As stated *supra*, Applicant has disclosed sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics in the Tables provided and therefore has in fact complied with the requirement of written description.

Further, the primary utility of an inbred is in the hybrid it will produce, and Applicant has provided ample description of the hybrids produced by PH0GC in the application as filed. (Specification, p. 1, ll. 28-33; pp. 18-20, Table 1; p. 38, Tables 3; p. 39, Tables 4). As stated in the MPEP, §2163(II)(A)(3)(a)(ii), the written description requirement for a genus may be satisfied by sufficiently describing a representative number of species actually reduced to practice. These hybrids are thus representative of the hybrids produced using PH0GC as a parent. This is sufficient to meet the written description requirement. *See Ex parte Garing*, p. 18 (B.P.A.I. 2005) (stating "[i]n addition, the examiner appears to recognize . . . that appellant's specification describes an exemplary hybrid wherein one parent was a plant of the corn variety [inbred number]. . . Accordingly, it is unclear to this merits panel what additional description is necessary.>").

Applicant submits that in accordance with the *Eli Lilly* standard recited by the Examiner, the genus of F1 hybrids encompassed by Applicant's claims 1-10 and new claims 11-30 are described with precise definition in a manner which provides structure sufficient to distinguish an F1 hybrid made with PH0GC from an F1 hybrid not made with PH0GC. This is because cells and/or chromosomes of inbred line PH0GC provide an identifying structural feature possessed by all members of the claimed genus. In addition, new claims 11-30 were added to further characterize the claimed invention. Therefore, since Applicant has deposited the seed of inbred maize PH0GC thereby allowing one skilled in the art to identify the F1 hybrids in relation to the

structural feature of the claimed invention, the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph has been met.

The legal standards for the written description requirement are discussed *supra*, and the written description requirement does not mandate a description via morphological and physiological characteristics. Applicant refers the Examiner to the case of *Ex Parte Tanksley*, 37 USPQ2d. 1382. In that case, the Examiner desired that Tanksley claim according to sequence data to "better characterize the cDNA clones" and "facilitate a complete search of the prior art" and issued a 112 first paragraph written description rejection. The Board held that "the section 112 rejection amounts to a requirement...that the appellants amend their claims in a specified manner...We find no language in the statute or case law which would support that requirement." The Board, in treating the section 112 first paragraph rejection as a § 112 second paragraph rejection, held that "[i]n our judgment, a patent applicant is entitled to a reasonable degree of latitude in complying with the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the examiner may not dictate the literal terms of the claims for the stated purpose of facilitating a search of the prior art. Stated another way, a patent applicant must comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, but just how the applicant does so, within reason, is within applicant's discretion." *Id.* at 1386.

One skilled in the art would thus recognize that Applicant was in possession of F1 hybrid seed and plants produced from line PH0GC as of the filing date of the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

B. Enablement regarding Claims 1-10

Claims 1-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner asserts that the claims(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner states the "while being enabling for inbred maize line PH0GC, deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-4523 and methods of using, does not reasonably provide enablement for a seed comprising at least one set of chromosomes of maize inbred line PH0GC as broadly claimed." The Examiner further maintains the rejections to the previously cited references. (Office Action, p. 7-11).

Applicant respectfully traverses. Inbred maize lines are primarily used to produce F1 hybrid seed and plants, as acknowledged by the Examiner (Office Action, p. 10, last full paragraph). The claimed F1 hybrid seed is routinely and easily produced by crossing a plant from inbred maize line PH0GC with a plant from another inbred maize line. Applicant has described how to produce an F1 hybrid from inbred maize line PH0GC. (Specification, p. 3, l. 19-p. 4, l. 30). Applicant has also made a deposit of inbred PH0GC that fully enables others to obtain the inbred seed needed to make the claimed F1 hybrids.

Applicant reiterates the arguments regarding the references cited by the Examiner as previously presented in the Amendment of May 17, 2005. Applicant asserts the references relate to segregating populations of seed (Kevern, Segebart '719 and Segebart '109) and selection within the segregating populations of seed (Carlone) to produce a population of seed. In contrast, the claimed invention teaches the use of stable and genetically fixed inbred lines to produce an F1 hybrid. An F1 hybrid as claimed is not a genetically mixed population, but rather is highly homogeneous and reproducible because it is made from the highly homogeneous and reproducible inbred maize line PH0GC. (Specification, p. 16, lines 7-8). Therefore, the Examiner's assertions are respectfully incorrect because in the present invention the genomic structure of PH0GC is shared by the claimed genus of hybrids, due to the highly homogenous nature of the PH0GC genetic complement. These are known facts to one of ordinary skill in the art of inbred maize lines and are sufficient to provide the distinguishing characteristics necessary to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Applicant has thus provided "distinguishing characteristics" of the claimed genus. As explained above, these specific identifying characteristics are the cells and/or chromosomes of PH0GC described in the deposit of the present application and present in the claimed F1 hybrid genus. The cells and/or chromosomes are present in the genus of F1 hybrids made with PH0GC and absent in the genus of F1 hybrids not made with PH0GC. To require Applicant to further describe aspects of the claimed invention that are not the point of patentability of the genus extends the written description requirement beyond the legal standard. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts the arguments set forth by the Examiner do not apply to the presently claimed invention.

Applicant has described how to produce an F1 hybrid from inbred maize line PH0GC. In addition, one skilled in the art of corn breeding would know that the F1 plants and seed of claims 1-10 can routinely and easily be produced by crossing PH0GC with another inbred maize line.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-10 and new claims 11-30 are fully enabled and have fully satisfied the legal standards for enablement.


Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicant submits in light of the above amendments and remarks, the claims as amended are in a condition for allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. If it is felt that it would aid in prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated to discuss any outstanding issues.

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Please charge Deposit Account No. 26-0084 the amount of \$790.00 per the attached RCE Transmittal. Please also charge Deposit Account No. 26-0084 the amount of \$700.00 for 10 additional claims over 20 (\$50 each) and 1 additional independent claim over 3 (\$200 each). No other fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lila A. T. Akrad, Reg. No. 52,550
McKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 27142

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